



COVID-19 Ministerial Group

Minute of Decision

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COVID-19 Response: Whānau Ora and Te Arawhiti

Portfolios **Māori Crown Relations Te Arawhiti / Whānau Ora**

On 31 August 2021, following discussions with officials and Ministers, the COVID-19 Ministerial Group [CAB-21-MIN-0353]:

- 1 **noted** that the impacts of the COVID-19 Delta variant in New Zealand and resultant Alert Level 4 measures are creating new challenges for access to food and essential services, and require more intensive responses to maintain whānau wellbeing;
- 2 **noted** that Whānau Ora Commissioning Agencies are in the process of reprioritising any uncommitted funding, including any remaining resilience funding received in Budget 2020, to cover the immediate needs of whanau;
- 3 **noted** that at the time of the COVID-19 resurgence, most Whānau Ora commissioning agency funding was already committed through contracting, and that ongoing recovery and resilience supports through Whānau Ora will be necessary as alert levels are lowered;
- 4 **noted** that responding early to meet specific community needs aligns with the government's objectives to keep New Zealanders safe from COVID-19 and the priority to take a broader approach to success based on wellbeing;
- 5 **agreed** to provide funding to support the work of Whānau Ora providers, meeting the increased community need for support and services, including accessing vaccinations, in response to the emergence of the COVID-19 Delta variant, for four weeks;
- 6 **noted** that the second two-week allocation of funding referred to in paragraph 5 above departs from the standard base allocation model for the distribution of Whānau Ora funds, and instead targets areas with the greatest need;
- 7 **agreed** that Whānau Ora Commissioning Agencies may undertake activities as a result of emerging priorities associated with containing virus spread, such as self-isolation accommodation;
- 8 **agreed** that funding be provided for iwi-led response planning, communications outreach, and support for vaccine uptake;

Financial implications

- 9 **agreed** to the policy decisions in paragraphs 5-8 above, subject to the provision of information on specific allocations and outcomes from the funding, with agreed monitoring and reporting arrangements;

- 10 **agreed** to establish a tagged operating contingency *Enabling Whānau Ora Providers to Support Communities* of up to the amounts as follows in Vote Māori Development, to provide for the policy decisions in paragraphs 5-7 above;
- 11 **agreed** to establish a tagged operating contingency *Enabling Iwi Māori-led Responses to COVID-19* of up to the amounts as follows in Vote Te Arawhiti, to provide for the policy decisions in paragraph 8 above:

	\$m – increase/(decrease)				
	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26 & outyears
Enabling Whānau Ora Providers to support communities during COVID-19 Tagged operating contingency	23.032	-	-	-	-
Enabling Iwi Maori-led responses to COVID-19 Tagged operating contingency	1.000	-	-	-	-
Total Operating	24.032	-	-	-	-

- 12 **authorised** the Minister for Whānau Ora and the Minister of Finance jointly to draw down the tagged operating contingency funding in paragraph 10 above (establishing any new appropriations as necessary), subject to their satisfaction with the outcome of the further work described in paragraph 9 above;
- 13 **authorised** the Minister for Māori Crown Relations: Te Arawhiti and the Minister of Finance jointly to draw down the tagged operating contingency funding in paragraph 11 above (establishing any new appropriations as necessary), subject to their satisfaction with the outcome of the further work described in paragraph 9 above;
- 14 **agreed** that the tagged operating contingencies in paragraphs 10 and 11 above be charged against the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund (CRRF) established as part of Budget 2020.

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